

CLAIMS

1. Method for use in a mobile telecommunication system with radio network controllers capable of exchanging control of a communication link to a user equipment without disruption, comprising the steps of:

- 5 deciding at a source radio network controller to perform relocation of said control of said communication link to a target radio network controller,
 preparing at said target radio network controller for said relocation,
 providing a reset signal from said source radio network controller to said user equipment,
10 resetting at least one state variable of said user equipment, and
 relocating said control of said communication link from said source radio network controller to said target radio network controller.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of preparing includes
15 initializing or resetting one or more state variables of said target radio network controller.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more state variables of said target radio network controller include at least one state variable selected
20 from the group consisting of a receive state variable, a highest expected state variable, and a maximum acceptable receive state variable.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said at least one state variable of said user equipment includes at least one state variable selected from the group
25 consisting of a send state variable, an acknowledge state variable and a maximum send state variable.

5. The method of claim 1, for use in an acknowledge mode.

- 30 6. User equipment for use in a mobile telecommunications system with radio network controllers capable of exchanging control of a communication link to said user equipment without disruption, comprising:
 means responsive to a reset signal from a source radio network controller for resetting at least one state variable of said user equipment; and

means responsive to said reset signal from said source radio network controller for providing a reset acknowledge signal to said source radio network controller.

5 7. The user equipment of claim 6, wherein said at least one state variable of said user equipment includes at least one state variable selected from the group consisting of a send state variable, an acknowledge state variable and a maximum send state variable.

10 8. The user equipment of claim 6, for use in an acknowledge mode.

9. A mobile telecommunications system with radio network controllers capable of exchanging control of a communication link to a user equipment without disruption, comprising:

15 means for deciding at a source radio network controller to perform relocation of said control of said communication link to a target radio network controller;

 means for preparing at said target radio network controller for said relocation;

20 means for providing a reset signal from said source radio network controller to said user equipment;

 means responsive to said reset signal for resetting state variables of said user equipment; and

25 means for relocating said control of said communication link from said source radio network controller to said target radio network controller.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said means for preparing includes means for initializing or resetting one or more state variables of said target radio network controller.

30 11. The system of claim 10, wherein said one or more state variables of said target radio network controller include at least one state variable selected from the group consisting of a receive state variable, a highest expected state variable, and a maximum acceptable receive state variable.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said at least one state variable of said user equipment includes at least one state variable selected from the group consisting of a send state variable, an acknowledge state variable and a maximum send state variable.

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13. The system of claim 9, for use in an acknowledge mode.

14. Radio network controller for use in a mobile telecommunications

10 system with plural radio network controllers capable of exchanging roles in controlling a communication link over an air interface to a user equipment without disruption, comprising:

means for deciding to perform relocation of control of said communication link to a target radio network controller and for providing a 15 reset signal to said user equipment; and

means responsive to a reset acknowledge signal from said user equipment for signaling commitment of said source radio network controller to said relocation to said target radio network controller.

20 15. Radio network controller for use in a mobile telecommunications system with plural radio network controllers capable of exchanging roles in controlling a communication link over an air interface to a user equipment without disruption, comprising:

means responsive to a relocation decision signal from a source radio 25 network controller for initializing or resetting one or more state variables of said radio network controller acting as a target radio network controller; and

means for controlling said user equipment with said radio network controller acting as said target radio network controller with said user equipment having state variables reset to match said one or more state 30 variables of said radio network controller.